

The health bill is actually a bill about life -- life for all of America 's families, including women and children.

And no longer will any woman have to wonder if she can bring a child to term because she can't afford it. The provisions in the bill that have to do with maternal health care, with child health care, with preventive care, the adoption credits that were included in the bill, take us to a new day in America .

It was just so profound to be a part of a moment when we truly moved America into the Twenty First Century.

In those communities that have provided maternal care and health care for children, for all children, we find that the abortion rate goes down significantly. Wouldn't it be wonderful if in our country no woman ever had to face the fateful decision of abortion? I think that what we have done through this bill and through this executive order is to establish a platform under all of America 's families, to give them the peace and security of a future where they don't have to make gruesome choices.

I just want to say to all of my colleagues, it was a joy to work with them because we know what we are doing is we are being a voice, as the March of Dimes tell us, for over a half a million children in this country who are born every year-low birthweight, many with deformities, because the mothers have never receive sufficient care during that childbearing period, and that's going to change with this bill.

I know that speaking with President Obama, as all my colleagues have, he's a very good father, he's a very good husband, and he would wish that for all of America 's families. We want to thank him for his leadership on this issue. I also want to thank Congressman Stupak, Congresswoman Dahlkemper of Erie, Pennsylvania, my sister in this effort, and also my good colleague from the state of Ohio, Steve Driehaus from Cincinnati, who has stood tall as a father himself, a good father, for all of America's children and families, to Congressman Rahall, Congressman Mollohan, Congressman Carney, all of equal suit, all fathers.

We have stood up for all of America's families.